

# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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**2013PHUPD001**

**TO:** Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, Maine Municipal Offices, City and County Health Departments, Tribal Health Directors, Maine Law Enforcement

**FROM:** Dr. Sheila Pinette, Maine CDC Director  
Dr. Stephen Sears, State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** Maine Animal Rabies 4th Quarter Update (October 1 – December 31, 2012)

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013

**TIME:** 10:30am

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**PRIORITY:** Low

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## Animal Rabies 4th Quarter Update October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) provides quarterly updates on animal rabies to veterinarians and other animal health professionals. This update provides information on rabid animals for the fourth quarter of 2012 (Oct. 1-Dec. 31). Results are based on animals submitted and tested at the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) following exposure to a human or domestic animal. USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance for rabid animals with no human or domestic animal exposure (Table 1). The count of positive animals statewide may not be representative of the true incidence of animal rabies in Maine. See HETL's website for regularly updated counts at: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2012.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2012.htm). Figures 1 and 2 (below) show additional animal rabies data for Maine.

### Rabies Management:

- Rabies is spread when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from an infected animal's saliva or neural tissue.
- Prompt recognition and reporting of exposures to medical professionals, public health, and local animal control officers is critical to ensure appropriate management and assessment of the need for post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Please refer to the updated [Maine Rabies Management Guidelines 2012, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition](#) when assessing a possible exposure. Also, see the updated [2012 Rules Governing Rabies Management](#).
- Maine CDC provides consultation and receives reports by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or fax at 1-800-293-7534.
- For more information, see the Maine CDC rabies website at [www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies).

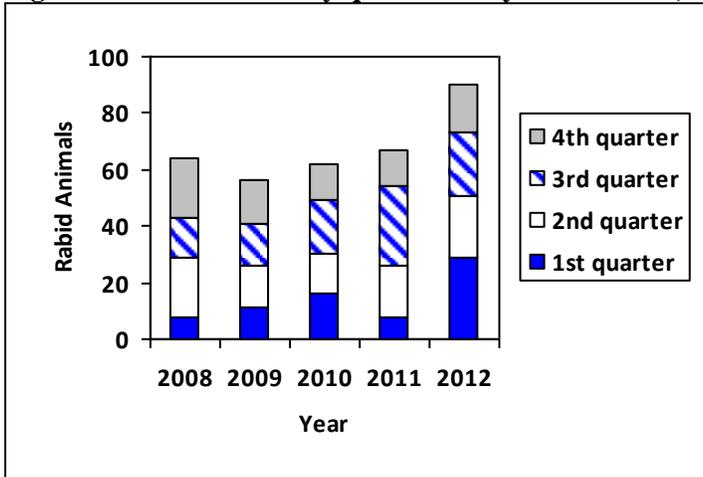
**Table 1. Animals positive for rabies virus by county, town and species in Maine – HETL and USDA\*, 2012**

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Oct 1–Dec 31)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Dec 31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
Androscoggin						<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
	Lisbon Falls			1			
Aroostook						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Cumberland						<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
Franklin						<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	Jay			1			
	Weld		1*				
Hancock						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Kennebec						<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
	Sidney		1				
Knox						<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
	Rockland	1					
Lincoln						<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
	Waldoboro			1			
Oxford						<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
	Brownsfield		1				
	Otisfield		1				
	Oxford			1			
Penobscot						<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>
	Brewer		1				
	Chester		1*				
	Hampden		1				
	Howland		1*				
	Lincoln		1*				
Piscataquis						<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Sagadahoc						<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
	Bath		1				
	Phippsburg			1			
Somerset						<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Waldo						<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
	Morrill			1			
Washington						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
York						<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>			
<b>Maine Total</b>						<b>17</b>	<b>91</b>

\*Denotes an animal that was tested by USDA APHIS Wildlife Services for supplemental surveillance that did not come in contact with a human or domestic animal.

**Animal Rabies 4th Quarter Update  
October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012**

**Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2008-2012**



**Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-December 31, 2012 (N=91)**

